

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 remain in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-26 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,407,996 (Witchalls) in view of USPN 6,490,275 (Sengodan). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-26 define over Witchalls in view of Sengodan. The Office Action states that “[t]he application computer (300, 313, 314) is arranged to execute applications using call control information (cols. 7-8, esp. col. 7: lines 37-57, and col. 8: lines 33-35, and lines 48-60).” Office Action, Page 2, Paragraph 4. The Office Action further states that computer-telephony integration unit (CTI) 314 comprises a “gatekeeper” as recited in the claimed subject matter. Id. Applicant respectfully disagrees on both points.

Applicant submits that communications exchange apparatus 300 is not an “application computer arranged to execute applications using call control information” as recited in the claimed subject matter. Witchalls describes a “communications exchange apparatus 300 comprises a call control apparatus 313 and a switch apparatus 314.”

Witchalls, Col. 7: Lines 38-40. Call control apparatus 313 “controls the connection of communications between the computers 302-308 by way of control signals passed between the call control apparatus 313 and the switch apparatus 314.” Id. at Lines 40-44. There is no mention, however, of call control apparatus 313 being “arranged to execute applications” as recited in the claimed subject matter. Rather, call control apparatus 313 appears to perform conventional telephony call control operations, and therefore would

be incapable of executing any applications. Switch apparatus 314 “implements the connection of communications between the individual computers 302-308.” Id. at Lines 44-45. In other words, switch apparatus 314 is a conventional telephony switch arranged to switch signals between two end points. Consequently, switch apparatus 314 is clearly not an “application computer arranged to execute applications using call control information.”

Applicant further submits that CTI 315 is not a “gatekeeper” as recited in the claimed subject matter. As stated in the Specification, “[t]he gatekeeper handles network functions such as bandwidth control, zone management, address translation, and admissions control for a designated set of network terminals.” Specification, Page 2, Paragraph 2. By way of contrast, Witchalls describes CTI 315 as a device which “allows one or more exchange monitoring computers 316, 317 to make telephony requests to call control and to allow computers 316, 317 to gain information from call control concerning which communications connections are in existence.” Witchalls, Col. 7: Lines 52-57. There appears to be no further discussion or description of CIT 315 by Witchalls. Consequently, it appears that CTI 315 is merely a message interface, and does not perform any gatekeeper operations at all.

For at least the reasons given above, Witchalls and Sengodan fail to disclose all the elements of claims 1-26, whether taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that claims 1-26 recite novel features not shown by the cited documents. Further, Applicant submits that the above-recited novel features provide new and unexpected results not recognized by the cited documents. Accordingly, Applicant

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submits that the claims are not anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the cited documents. Removal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

It is believed that claims 1-26 are in allowable form. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 724-933-3387 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



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Deborah Higham

8-18-04

Date

Dated: August 18, 2004

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